

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. L7059-0001

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system for indicating proper sterilization of a mail article, said system comprising:

a mail article;

a postage stamp affixed to said mail article, said postage stamp having a color indicator;

a sterilization apparatus radiating an energy beam having means for sterilizing said mail article;

whereby when said mail article is sterilized by the sterilization apparatus, said color indicator changes from a first color to a second color.

A¹

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the sterilization apparatus emits an electron beam to sterilize said mail article.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the sterilization apparatus emits gamma radiation to sterilize said mail article.

Claim 4 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the color indicator is a design section on an outer surface of said postage stamp, said indicator indicating a first color prior to exposure to sterilization from said sterilization apparatus and the second color after exposure to sterilization from said sterilization apparatus.

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. L7059-0001

Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein the color indicator is a background section on an outer surface of said stamp, said background indicating a first color prior to exposure to sterilization from said sterilization apparatus and the second color after exposure to sterilization from said sterilization apparatus.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein said postage stamp provides an indication of payment of postal fees for mailing said mail article.

Claim 7 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein:

A 1 said sterilization apparatus emits an electron beam to sterilize said mail article;
said postage stamp provides an indication of payment of postal fees for mailing said mail article; and
said color indicator changes from the first color to the second color upon exposure to said electron beam.

Claim 8 (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein said postage stamp is a meter mark affixed to said mail article.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of indicating proper sterilization of a mail article by a sterilization apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:
affixing; by a sender of the mail article, a postage stamp to a mail article;

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. L7059-0001

collecting, by a postal service, the mail article;
sterilizing, by the sterilization apparatus utilizing a radiation beam of energy, the mail article;
transforming a portion of a postage stamp affixed to the mail article from a first color to a second color when the mail article successfully completes sterilization by the sterilization apparatus;
and
delivering, by the postal service, the mail article to a specified recipient.

AI . Claim 10 (Original): The method of indicating proper sterilization of a mail article of claim 9, further comprising, after the step of sterilizing, by the sterilization apparatus, the mail article, the step of:

determining, by the postage service, if the postage stamp has changed to the second color;
sterilizing, by the sterilization apparatus, the mail article if the postage stamp has not changed to the second color.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of indicating proper sterilization of a mail article of claim 9 wherein said step of sterilizing, by the sterilization apparatus, the mail article includes emitting an electron beam by the sterilization apparatus to sterilize the mail article.

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. L7059-0001

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A stamp for indicating proper sterilization of a mail article, said stamp comprising:

a sheet of material having an outer surface and a back surface, said sheet of material being a postage stamp;

said outer surface displaying a color indicator; and

said back surface having an adhesive for affixing said sheet of material to the mail article;

whereby said color indicator indicates a first color prior to being subjected to a sterilization process utilizing a beam of energy for sterilization and indicating a second color after being subjected to a sterilization process.